In the claims

1. (once amended) An aqueous, film-forming coating composition comprising a polyhydroxyalkanoate polyester, wherein the composition forms a water-resistant film at ambient temperatures and at least 60% of the polyester particles have a density of less than 102% D_{min}, D_{min} being the lowest density attainable by the polyester.

11. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate polyester forms particles which fuse at ambient temperatures.

12. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate polyester comprises a copolymer of between 60 and 100 mole% 3-hydroxybutyrate and between 0 and 40 mole% 3-hydroxyvalerate.

13. (original) The composition of claim 1 further comprising other film-forming polymers.

14. (original) The composition of claim 13 wherein the film-forming polymers are obtained from monomers obtained from petroleum or vegetable oil feedstocks and which are present in an amount of up to 95 wt% of the combined weights of the film-forming polymer and the hydroxyalkanoate polyester.

15. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 1 further comprising a copolymer which comprises monomers capable of forming homopolymers having high minimum film-forming

temperatures and monomers capable of forming homopolymers having low minimum film-forming temperatures.

16. (Twice Amended) The composition of claim 15 wherein the monomers capable of forming homopolymers having high film-forming temperatures are selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acids, non-acidic monomers, fumaric anhydrides, and maleic anhydrides.

17. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 15 wherein the monomers capable of forming homopolymers having low film-forming temperatures are selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, 2-ethyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, and vinyl esters of branched chain acids.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 1 further comprising a pigment.

19. (Original) A method of coating a structure comprising applying an aqueous film-forming coating composition comprising a polyhydroxyalkanoate polyester, wherein the composition forms a water-resistant film at ambient temperatures and at least 60% of the polyester particles have a density of less than 102% D_{min}, D_{min} being the lowest density attainable by the polyester.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate polyester forms particles which fuse at ambient temperatures.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate polyester comprises a copolymer of between 60 and about 100 mole% 3-hydroxybutyrate and between about 0 and 40 mole% 3-hydroxyvalerate.

22. (Twice amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the coating composition further comprises a copolymer which comprises monomers capable of forming homopolymers having high minimum film-forming temperatures and monomers capable of forming homopolymers having low minimum film-forming temperatures.

23. (Twice amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the monomers capable of forming homopolymers having high film-forming temperatures are selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acids, non-acidic monomers, fumaric anhydrides, and maleic anhydrides.

24. (Twice amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the monomers capable of forming homopolymers having low film-forming temperatures are selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, 2-ethyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, and vinyl esters of branched chain acids.

25. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the composition further comprises film-forming polymers comprising monomers obtained from petroleum or vegetable oil feedstocks and which are present in an amount of up to 95 wt% of the combined weights of the film-forming polymer and the hydroxyalkanoate polyester, and the composition is applied as a paint or varnish.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the coating is applied to surfaces found on buildings or vehicles, their fittings or furnishings, or on metal or plastics containers.